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HARRISON TOWNSHIP COUPLE CONVICTED OF MAKING FALSE STATEMENTS TO FEDERAL AGENTS

DAYTON – Virginia McGuire, age 62, and her husband, Milton McGuire, age 59, of Harrison Township were sentenced yesterday in United States District Court, having been convicted on one count each of making a false, fictitious and fraudulent material representation to the Drug Enforcement Administration stemming from the investigation of their son, Myron “Marty” Grubbs, on federal drugs and weapons charges. The McGuires were sentenced to probation and electronic home monitoring.

Gregory G. Lockhart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio; Eric Spradling, Special Agent in Charge, Drug Enforcement Agency, and Richard Biehl, Chief, Dayton Police Department, announced the sentence handed down Thursday by United States District Judge Walter H. Rice, Jr.

Virginia and Milton McGuire were indicted by a federal grand jury on September 9, 2006 after lying to DEA agents and attempting to claim ownership of drug proceeds found in their son’s residence during the execution of a search warrant. After pleading no contest, they were found guilty of the charges by Judge Rice last summer.

According to facts and statements presented in court at sentencing, the McGuires arrived at the scene of a February 4, 2006 burglary at a rental property they owned on Evergreen Avenue in Dayton. Officers executed a search warrant and recovered marijuana, heroin, two scales, nine firearms, and over \$145,000 in U.S. currency found in a trash bag in a closet. Virginia McGuire told law enforcement officers on the scene that her son, Myron “Marty” Grubbs, occupied the residence but that she had no knowledge about the guns, drugs or money found inside the home that night. Two weeks later, the McGuires contacted Dayton Police and made a claim for the currency seized at the Evergreen property. Virginia McGuire claimed she had moved the cash from the home she occupied with her husband in Harrison Township into her rental property on Evergreen for safekeeping, that the currency was the life savings she and her husband had accumulated for more than 20 years, and that they normally kept the currency at

home because of their distrust of banks. McGuire recanted her earlier statement to police that her son resided at the Evergreen address, stating instead that the property was vacant.

Investigation of the McGuires' false claims impeded the DEA and placed "artificial hurdles" into the federal investigation and subsequent charges against their son relating to the guns, drugs and money seized from the Evergreen property. Evergreen Avenue residents later confirmed to law enforcement that Myron Grubbs was in fact their neighbor and that the house had not been vacant since 1998. Further evidence confirmed the McGuires had lied about Grubbs' occupancy of the Evergreen Avenue residence through records which showed that Grubbs was subscribing to and paying for cable TV and an alarm monitoring service, as well as receiving mail and maintaining personal property at the residence. Officers were able to repudiate the McGuires' false claims of distrust for banks, by uncovering evidence of numerous bank accounts held in their names and the fact that their paychecks were being direct-deposited.

Virginia and Milton McGuire were each ordered to serve a term of three years on probation, with two months on electronic home monitoring and another two months on home confinement. Their son, Myron Grubbs, was convicted on federal weapons charges earlier this year and is serving a 51-month prison term. The McGuires claim for the seized currency was ultimately denied and the money was administratively forfeited to the DEA.

"Parents, relatives and all citizens must realize that making false statements to law enforcement officials is a serious offense which cannot be tolerated, will be prosecuted and, as this case demonstrates, may result in felony convictions." Lockhart said.

Lockhart commended the investigative efforts of DEA agents and Dayton Police officers, along with Assistant United States Attorneys, Sheila Lafferty and Mona Guerrier, who prosecuted the case.

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